(a) whether it is a fact that telecom facilities in the rural areas around Tirupati are not being operated efficiently;

(b) if so, the reasons for not developing telecom facilities in rural areas;

(c) whether STD to Yerpedu and surrounding villages is usually inaccessible; and

(d) what steps Government have proposed to improve telecom facilities in rural areas around Tirupati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The performance in rural areas around Tirupati is satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present Yerpedu has no STD access. However, it is connected to Tirupati on inter-dialing and has got access to all the group exchanges connected to Tirupati Short Distance Charging Centre. It is proposed to provide STD facilities to Yerpedu during 1995-96 subject to availability of resources.

(d) It is proposed to replace the electro-mechanical exchanges in rural areas with electronic exchanges, provide suitable media to extend group-dialing/STD facilities to various exchanges in Tirupati rural areas in a phased manner subject to availability of resources.

Wrongful disconnection of telephones by MTNL

7065. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various telecom authorities wrongfully disconnect the phones of the subscribers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL was penalised for wrongful dis-connection of phones by a consumer court;

(c) if so, how the DoT propose to properly synchronise billing department with the operations department; and

(d) what steps Government propose to streamline such operations in all Telecom regions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. In stray cases however, the telephone may get wrongfully disconnected due to non-receipt of payment particulars from Post Office/Banks.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are being made to ensure that payment particulars from various collection agencies reach the computer cell in time and data entry into computer is done correctly. A new computerised comprehensive Financial Management System is under implementation at MTNL Delhi & Bombay.

(d) The following steps have been taken to streamline the operations in all Telecom regions in the country:-

In addition to telephonic reminders prior to disconnection of the facilitiy on account of non-payment registered reminders are also issued to subscribers of non-electronic exchanges. In the case of subscribers connected to Electronic Exchanges, in lieu of the registered notice, the outgoing facility is withdrawn for 15 days. The incoming facility is also withdrawn if the payment is not received within 15 days.

Computerisation of TR billing and accounting is being introduced to account for payments quickly. The matter is also taken up with Postal authorities for expediting the payment particulars.

Perspective plans for telephone requirements in Sholapur

7066. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perspective plans for telephone requirements of the growing city of Sholapur for 2005,2010,2015 or 2020 have been prepared, keeping in view the pace of development and growing needs of the town for additional telecom facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. Perspective Plans for Sholapur have not been drawn up for the period mentioned in the question. However, telephone